

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. In amendments to the claims, additions are represented by underlining and deletions are represented by ~~strikethrough~~ or, in cases of five characters or fewer, by [[double brackets]].

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering carpet comprising polymeric fibers, which method comprises:

- a) selling carpet to a consumer, which is installed at the consumer location;
- b) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
- c) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
- d) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time from the end of the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet;
- e) collecting the carpet;
- f) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type; and
- g) converting the polymeric fibers into a recovered polymer composition.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming an article from the recovered polymer composition.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming polymeric fibers from the recovered polymer composition.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming polymeric fibers from the recovered polymer composition and then forming the polymeric fibers into a carpet.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step of converting the polymeric fibers into a recovered polymer composition comprises depolymerizing at least one type of polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step of converting the polymeric fibers into a recovered polymer composition comprises depolymerizing at least one type of polymeric fiber into its monomeric components and then repolymerizing the monomeric components to form the recovered polymer composition.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming an article from the recovered polymer composition.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition and then forming the fibers into a carpet.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the converting step comprises depolymerizing a nylon polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the converting step comprises depolymerizing a nylon 6 polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the establishing and maintaining step is conducted via a global computer network.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting step is conducted using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step after the contacting step of providing the consumer with a replacement carpet.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the consumer with an incentive to replace the carpet.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering carpet comprising polymeric fibers, which method comprises:

- a) selling carpet to a consumer;
- b) installing a carpet at [[a]] the consumer location;
- c) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
- d) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
- e) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time of the end of the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet;
- f) collecting the carpet;
- g) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type;
- h) depolymerizing the polymeric fibers into their monomeric components;
- i) repolymerizing the monomeric components to form a recovered polymer composition, and
- j) forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition, and then forming the fibers into a carpet.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the polymeric fibers comprise at least one nylon.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing the consumer with an incentive to replace the carpet.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing the consumer with a replacement carpet.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the establishing and maintaining step is conducted via a global computer network.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the contacting step is conducted using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering carpet comprising nylon polymeric fibers, which method comprises:

- a) selling carpet to a consumer, which is installed at the consumer location;
- b) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
- c) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
- d) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time from the end of the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network;
- e) collecting the carpet;
- f) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type including nylon polymeric fibers;
- g) depolymerizing at least one type of nylon polymeric fiber into its monomeric components;
- h) repolymerizing the monomeric components to form a recovered polymer composition, and
- i) forming nylon fibers from the recovered polymer composition, and then forming the fibers into a carpet.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the nylon polymeric fibers comprises nylon 6.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the establishing and maintaining step is conducted via a global computer network.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step after the contacting step of providing the consumer with a replacement carpet.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising providing the consumer with an incentive to replace the carpet.